

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22,  
wherein:

the verifier determines the authorization based on a  
verification of a presence of an entirety of a data set  
5 corresponding to the ~~protected~~ material.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22,  
wherein:

said storing means stores the damaged version on a  
removable media.

4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22,  
wherein:

said storing means stores the damaged version in a  
temporary storage device, and stores the repaired version in a  
5 permanent storage device.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22,  
wherein:

the damaging means damages a select portion of the  
~~protected-material~~ to form the damaged version, and

5 the repairing means repairs a corresponding select  
portion of the damaged version to form the repaired version.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5,  
wherein the apparatus further comprises:

means for disabling the damaging means in order to prevent  
subsequent damage to the ~~protected-material~~, after the verifier  
5 determines the authorization.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 5,  
wherein

the damaging means comprises:

a first device for damaging the select portion of the  
5 ~~protected-material~~ via an exclusive-or function with a key, and

the repairing means comprises:

a second device for repairing the select portion of the  
~~protected-material~~ via an exclusive-or function with the key.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7,  
wherein

the key is provided via a random process.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein

the key includes a series of random numbers that are provided via a pseudo-random process based on a key-seed.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein

the key is destroyed if the verifier fails to determine the authorization.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

means for rendering the ~~protected~~-material while the verifier is determining the authorization.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving, protecting and storing ~~protected~~-material, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving the ~~protected~~-material in an unprotected form from a remote source;

5 generating a damaged version of the ~~protected~~-material;  
determining an authorization to process the ~~protected~~ material;

storing the damaged version of the ~~protected~~-material while determining the authorization; and

10           repairing the damaged version of the ~~protected~~-material to  
form a repaired version of the ~~protected~~-material after determining  
the authorization.

13. (Currently Amended)       The method as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein

              the determining the authorization step is based on a  
verification of a presence of an entirety of a data set  
5   corresponding to the ~~protected~~-material.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein

              the storing the damaged version step includes storing the  
damaged version on a removable media.

15. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein

              the storing the damaged version step includes storing the  
damaged version in a temporary storage device, and wherein the  
5   method further comprises the step of:

              storing the repaired version in a permanent storage  
device.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein:

said generating steps comprises damaging a select portion  
of the ~~protected~~-material to form the damaged version, and wherein

5 said step of repairing the damaged version comprises  
repairing a corresponding select portion of the damaged version to  
form the repaired version.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 16,  
wherein

said step of damaging a select portion of the ~~protected~~  
material includes performing an exclusive-or operation on the

5 select portion with a key, and

said step of repairing the damaged version includes  
performing an exclusive-or operation on the corresponding select  
portion with the key.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17,  
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

generating the key via a random process.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18,  
wherein

the step of generating the key includes generating a series of random numbers via a pseudo-random process based on a  
5 key-seed.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17,  
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

destroying the key if a failure is reported in determining  
the authorization.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 12,  
wherein said method further comprises the step of:

providing an undamaged version of the ~~protected~~ material  
for rendering while determining the authorization.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for receiving, protecting  
and storing ~~protected~~ material, said apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving ~~protected~~ material in an  
unprotected form from a remote source;

5 means for generating a damaged version of said ~~protected~~  
material;

means for storing said damaged version of said ~~protected~~  
material;

a verifier for determining an authorization to process  
10 said ~~protected~~ material; and

means for repairing the damaged version of said protected material in response to said verifier determining the authorization.